

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12578 041848Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE NINAL ACT

1. AT SPASO RECEPTION AUGUST 28, HONORING METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OPENING, Y.I. VOLSKIY, CHIEF OF MFA CULTURAL DIVISION, ASSURED AMBASSADOR THE SOVIETS WOULD IMPLEMENT ALL PARTS OF CSCE, INCLUDING BASKET III POINTS, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THEM "WERE DIFFICULT FOR USSR." HE POINTED TO DIFFERENCES IN OUR TWO SOCIETIES AND CAUTIONED THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT ACTION "OVERNIGHT" ON BASKET III. WHEN AMBASSADOR RAISED QUESTION OF CIRCULATION OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES, VOLSKIY SAID WITH SOME ANIMATION THAT THIS WAS ONE OF MOST DELICATE PROBLEMS FOR USSR. HE SAID US PAPERS STILL PRINT UNPLEASANT THINGS ABOUT USSR (ALTHOUGH LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY) AND THIS HAS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH REGARD TO THEIR DISTRIBUTION IN SOVIET UNION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED US GOVERNMENT HAS NO CONTROL OVER US PRESS, INCONTRAST TO POSITION OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS SOVIET PRESS. ON LATTER, HE SAID HE HOPED WE HAD NOTED THAT AMOUNT OF ANTI-US MATERIAL IN SOVIET PUBLICATIONS HAD DIMINISHED, AND STATED "SOVIET AUTHORITIES CONTROL THIS CAREFULLY." VOLSKIY CONCLUDED BY SAYING EXPANSION OF NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION IN USSR WOULD COME ONLY GRADUALLY

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12578 041848Z

AND WOULD NOT BE EASY, BUT THAT IT COULD DEFINITELY TAKE

PLACE.

2. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT VOLSKIY'S COMMENTS
REFLECT A CONSIDERED SOVIET POSITION. IF IT DEVELOPS THAT
SOVIETS ACQUIESCENCE IN PERMITTING EXPANDED CIRCULATION OF
WESTERN PAPERS IS TIED TO ABSENCE OF ANTI-SOVIET CONTENT, THEN
IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PARTICULAR POINT WILL INDEED BE DIFFICULT.
STOESSEL

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